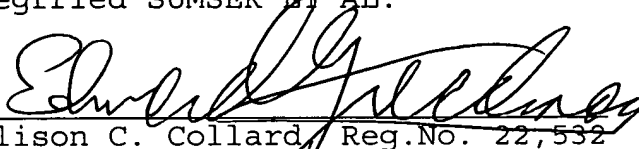


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, and claims 1-14 have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Siegfried SUMSER ET AL.

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802


Allison C. Collard, Reg.No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg.No. 26,048
William C. Collard Reg. No. 38,411
Frederick J. Dorchak Reg.No. 29,298
Elizabeth C. Richter Reg.No. 35,103
Attorneys for Applicants

Express Mail No. EV 590 258 871 US
Date of Deposit - January 19, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Maria Guastella